NEW SALE ROOM, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD.

Mr. Charles Fowler, the able architect of Covent Garden-market, has recently constructed a sale-room for Mr. Toplis, at 16, St. Paul's Church-yard, which has the merit of combining a picturesque effect with simplicity and economy. It is 73 feet by 20 feet in the clear; 16 feet high at the walls, and 21 feet to the centre of the roof.

The entrance for the public is near the east end, and the access for goods at the west end; the well-hole of the stairs being covered with flaps, laid flush with the floor when not used. The auctioneer's rostrum projects from a recess in the centre, as shewn in the annexed engraving, and is approached by a private staircase from the offices below. Tables are constructed to form a semi-circle in front of the rostrum, bringing the buyers into the best position in regard to the auctioneer, and at the same time forming an enclosure clear of the company in which the porters can hand round the goods for inspection. A moveable screen about 7 feet high, occasionally shuts off one-third of the room at the west end, for the exclusive deposit of some kinds of goods: and a passage is reserved from thence to the circular enclosure, by which they are brought forward in succession for sale, and replaced when sold.

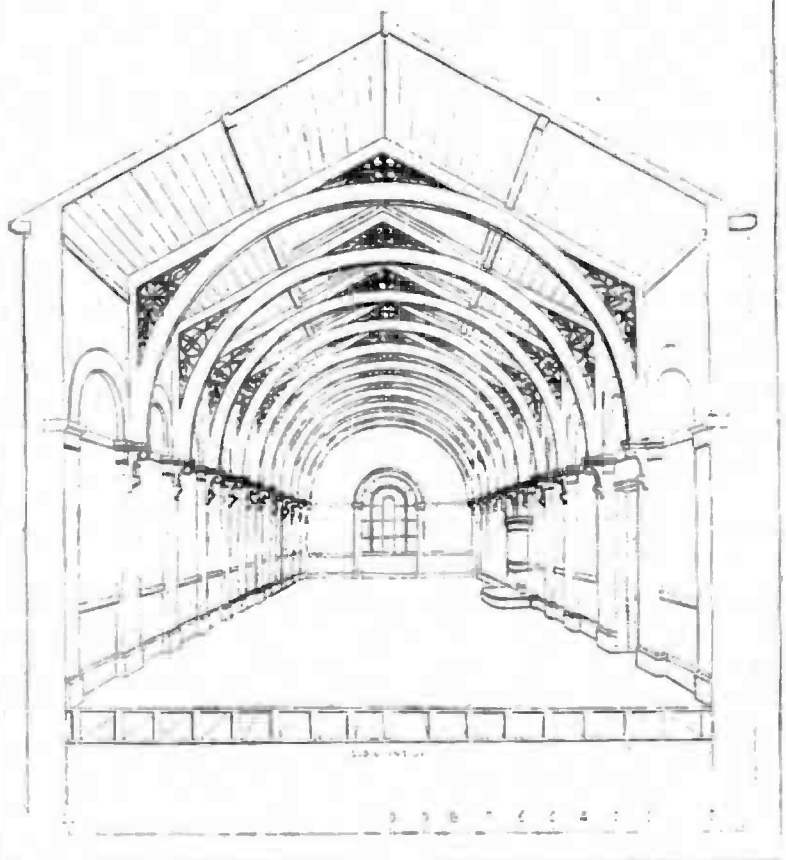
The roof is boarded against the rafters, but all the other timbers are exposed to view; and the whole is planed and varnished.

The range of lights in the centre comprises thirty-six frames, each glazed with a single plate 4 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 8 inches and ¼ thick, rough from the casting. The light is remarkably strong, at the same time it is so modified by the rough surfaces of the plate-glass as not to be glaring or offensive. The great strength of the glass was an important desideratum in this situation, as skylights are found to be exposed to constant damage from missiles, probably thrown from the cathedral.

The circular ribs of the roof are formed with three thicknesses of 1½ deal, and footed into iron sockets or corbels, let into stone templates.

As a precaution until the perfect set and settlement of the work, three of the roof-frames have iron rod ties; but they are not intended to be left permanently; as it is not calculated that there will be any lateral thrust.

NEW SALE ROOM, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD.



FOREIGN ARCHITECTURAL AND COLLATERAL INTELLIGENCE.

Plan of a "General Annuity Fund" for the Working-classes in France.—The above subject is, certainly, attracting much attention with our neighbours, as we find, that it has been one of the topics included in the speeches of the ministry to the *sovereign*, on the festivity of the new year. The following extract from an article by Mr. Adolphe Beaumont (the traveller in Ireland), will best explain the views entertained in France on this important topic. "The General Chambers of Manufactures and Commerce have pronounced themselves favourably on the establishment of a general annuity fund for the working-classes (*caisse générale de retraits pour les classes laborieuses*), and we have every reason to think that the General Council of Agriculture will follow the same example. The question will then have made a great step, likely to extend over the whole bulk of the nation, all tending towards the realization of that idea—a "natural and necessary complement of the system of *savings banks*." Objections have been, it is true, raised against this annuity fund, which, however, will not stand the test of serious sifting. Certainly, *all* workers are *not* in a state of saving; but we have to exert ourselves in the improvement of that class, so that the above cases become as rare as possible. But we must acknowledge, that a somewhat (albeit one-sided) progress *has* taken place for the last fifty years, and which may be the harbinger of still more general *advancements*. We allude to the savings banks, which prove clearly, that the numbers of workers, who are in the position of saving, *are* on the increase. The general fund will still more help that way, because it will receive payments so *extremely small* and reduced, that the humblest will not be precluded from its benefits. By the saving of a few *centimes* a day, it will be possible to acquire an annuity for old age—whose maximum, however, has been wisely limited to 480 fr. (19*l.*) by the commission, which, presided over by Count Molé, contained amongst its members Messrs. Gasparin, Passy, Vivien (all three late secretaries of state), Bignon, Michel Chevalier,* Legentil, President of the Board of Trade of Paris, Olinde Rodriguez, Eichthal, (regent of the Bank of France), Wolkonski (professor at the Conservatory of Arts and Trades), &c. By one of the stipulations of the "*General Annuity Fund Bill*" of France, the wife may obtain the right of depositing her savings in that way, by an interference of the *juge de paix* (magistrate), even against the will of her husband. When the minister alluded to this plan before the king, on presenting to him the General Chambers of Agriculture, Commerce, and Trades—he said, that "they felt honoured in their being the representatives of the working-classes before H. M., and that nothing seems to them more deserving of attention than the improvement of those classes." Mr. Cunin-Gridaine then adverted to "the regulations of children employed in manufactories—regulations, which would inspire them with the ability and inclination for work, and thus regenerate the moral and physical condition of mankind."

Mr. Vicat—chief engineer and director of roads and bridges, who had received from the French Parliament a national recompense for his investigations on lime and mortar, has been promoted by the king to the rank of a commander of the royal order of the Legion of Honour.

Railways in Greece.—This ancient cradle of modern civilization is also on the point of obtaining its most positive improvement—railways. Authorized commissaries have arrived in Greece, for treating with Government on the establishment of a line from Athens to the Pyræus. This line will be the more important, as it will rectify an *error*, which had been perceived too late, viz., of having chosen Athens instead of the latter as the metropolis of the new kingdom. A chief difficulty in the effecting of such plans in Greece, is the purchase of the necessary lands, as hitherto no law of appropriation has been enacted.

The Barrage and Embankment of the Nile—presents greater difficulties than were expected, as the completed plans exhibit an immense amount of labour and capital required. It is, moreover, apprehended that the river, thus hemmed in and led away from its previous course, may form in some places an altogether new bed, or that the sea may encroach on the Delta, where considerable alterations are contemplated. It is said, further, that even the arable land now at hand is not adequately cultivated, for want of hands, and that the land gained by these stupendous hydraulic operations, will be of no avail whatever.

The Royal and Public Library at Munich.—Happy may be considered *those* times, when the scope of a library comprehended chiefly the collecting of books appertaining to civilized Europe. With the expansion of literature, and the knowledge of so many, hitherto hardly attended to—almost all the modern libraries have required reconstruction. Bavaria has not remained behind other (even larger) countries in this respect. It was in the year 1831 that the necessity for the new building for a library and archives at Munich, was laid before the Parliament, and their consent being readily obtained, the foundation-stone was laid in 1832. Situate in the *Ludwig's Strasse*, this structure, erected by *Gartner*, may rank amongst the grandest monuments of Germany. Towards that street is directed one wing of the square building, 520 feet long, and of a height of 85 feet. The other corresponding wing lies towards *Gartner Strasse* and the park, where, most judiciously, the working rooms of the officers and the reading rooms have been placed. Here you enjoy a charming view over the whole park, up to the Bavarian mountains, and the morning sun, so genial in northern climes, falls straight on the whole flight of rooms. Two lateral wings, one with a southerly, the other a northern aspect, abut respectively towards the Horse-guards' building and the *Ludwig's* church. The front and

* Once a member of the Fourrierist body—now Councillor of State on extraordinary service.

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